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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/900,254	07/25/1997	PETER PFEUFFER	22750/350	7919
26646	7590	11/13/2006	EXAMINER	
KENYON & KENYON LLP ONE BROADWAY NEW YORK, NY 10004			YAO, SAMCHUAN CUA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1733	

DATE MAILED: 11/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Advisory Action Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	08/900,254	PFEUFFER, PETER
	Examiner Sam Chuan C. Yao	Art Unit 1733
<b>--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</b>		
THE REPLY FILED <u>24 October 2006</u> FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.		
<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:</p> <p>a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The period for reply expires <u>3</u> months from the mailing date of the final rejection.</p> <p>b) <input type="checkbox"/> The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.</p> <p>Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).</p>		
<p>Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).</p>		
<b>NOTICE OF APPEAL</b>		
<p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).</p>		
<b>AMENDMENTS</b>		
<p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will <u>not</u> be entered because</p> <p>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);</p> <p>(b) <input type="checkbox"/> They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);</p> <p>(c) <input type="checkbox"/> They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or</p> <p>(d) <input type="checkbox"/> They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.</p>		
<p>NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).</p>		
<p>4. <input type="checkbox"/> The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).</p>		
<p>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.</p>		
<p>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).</p>		
<p>7. <input type="checkbox"/> For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) <input type="checkbox"/> will not be entered, or b) <input type="checkbox"/> will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.</p> <p>The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:</p> <p>Claim(s) allowed: _____.</p> <p>Claim(s) objected to: _____.</p> <p>Claim(s) rejected: <u>1</u>.</p> <p>Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.</p>		
<b>AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE</b>		
<p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will <u>not</u> be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).</p>		
<p>9. <input type="checkbox"/> The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will <u>not</u> be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome <u>all</u> rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).</p>		
<p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.</p>		
<b>REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER</b>		
<p>11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: see the attachment for Examiner's response.</p>		
<p>12. <input type="checkbox"/> Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). _____</p>		
<p>13. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.</p>		
 <p>Sam Chuan C. Yao Primary Examiner Art Unit: 1733</p>		

### Attachment to the Advisory Action

Counsel's basically has reiterated the arguments presented in Applicant's last response. Accordingly, Yamamoto et al is completely concerned with dispersing properties of staple in water. Additionally, "**... there is consequently no discussion whatsoever in Yamamoto et al. of the strength of the bonds of the non woven fabric, .... The relative strength of the bonds of the non woven fabric, e.g., the bonds of the non woven fabric being of equal strength over its cross-section.**"(bond-face in original). Examiner agrees. However, simply because the recited characteristic of "*the bonds of the non woven fabric are of equal strength over its cross-section*" is not explicitly disclosed in a modified process of Yamamoto et al, it does not necessarily mean that this characteristic would not intrinsically be present in a modified web of Yamamoto et al. As has been noted in a prior office action, the non-woven web in a modified process of Yamamoto et al is reasonably expected to have a uniform bonding strength in view of the similarity of the production processes between the modified process of Yamamoto et al and the claimed process.

The modified process of Yamamoto et al **versus** The claimed invention

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| a) <u>uniformly blended</u> undrawn and drawn synthetic fibers | undrawn and drawn synthetic fibers |
|--|------------------------------------|

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- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| b) preheated web                    | preheated web                       |
| c) unheated profiled calendar rolls | unheated profiled<br>calender rolls |
| d) no flat bonding is used          | no flat bonding is used             |

There is simply nothing in the claimed invention or even in the original disclosure as a whole, which provides any indication that the present invention is performing any special or unique process operation(s) (i.e. different from a modified process of Yamamoto et al), which enables one to form a non woven fabric, where "*the bonds of the non woven fabric are of equal strength over its cross-section*". If the modified process of Yamamoto et al and the claimed process are indistinguishable from each other, then it would be reasonable to expect that the characteristics such as having a uniformly bonded cross-section of a non-woven web from either processes would also be indistinguishable from each other. In fact, as correctly noted by Counsel on page 6 last paragraph lines 1-11, "... Yamamoto et al further describe that, when the dispersing properties of the staple fibers in water is not uniform, the properties of the non woven fabric are not satisfactory, e.g., not even." (emphasis added) This appears to suggest that since the fibers in a web of Yamamoto et al are uniformly dispersed, then the bonding strength across its cross-section would be "even" or equal.

Note: Where ... the claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes, the PTO can require an applicant to prove that the prior art products do not necessarily or inherently possess the characteristics of his claimed product. **Whether the rejection is based on "inherency" under 35 USC § 102, on prima facie obviousness" under 35 USC § 103, jointly or alternatively, the**

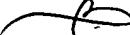
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**burden of proof is the same, and its fairness is evidenced by the PTO's inability to manufacture products or to obtain and compare prior art products." In re Best, 562 F2d 1252, 1255, 195 USPQ 430, 433-4 (CCPA 1977).**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sam Chuan C. Yao whose telephone number is (571) 272-1224. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday with second Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Richard Crispino can be reached on (571) 272-1171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Sam Chuan C. Yao  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1733

Scy  
10-31-06